

REMARKS

Claims 20-54 are pending in the application. Claims 36-46 are allowed. Claims 20-22, 24, 27, 29-35, 47, 49 and 52 stand rejected. Claims 23, 25, 26, 28, 48, 50, 51, 53 and 54 stand objected to.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks hereinbelow.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102:

Claims 20-22, 24, 27, 29-35, 47, 49 and 52 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito (U.S. 6,473,570). Claims 23, 25, 26, 28, 48, 50, 51, 53 and 54 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, however, the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability as to these claims. Claims 36 – 46 stand allowed. The applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing these claims.

Turning now to the rejected claims, the applicant respectfully submits the following argument:

1. Claims 20 – 28:

The Office Action of November 18, 2003 rejects claims 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 as it contends that:

Ito discloses a "camera" (see figures. 1-6); a "first electronic circuit board having a first electronic circuit to performing for set of camera functions..." (see 37 or 77 of Fig. 4); a "second electronic circuit board having a second electronic circuit with a second set electrical contacts..." and "wherein the second electronic circuit board comprises more than one modular circuit the modular circuit having modular contacts" (see 41 of Fig. 4); a "frame holding the first electronic circuit" (see 3 of Fig. 4, "frame" three holds all the circuit scene in Fig. 4); a cover joinable to the frame (see 4,5 of Fig. 1); a "mounting between the cover and the frame for holding the second electronic circuit board", "said mounting comprises alignment surfaces that...", and wherein the mounting is integrally formed with the cover" (see 40 of Fig. 4)

The applicant respectfully traverses these grounds for rejection for the following reasons:

Ito discloses a camera having three circuit boards each of which comprises a flexible circuit board: an information reading flexible circuit board 37, a main flexible circuit board 41 and an autofocus control flexible circuit board 77. These flexible circuit boards and each have a terminal such terminal 53d on main flexible circuit board 41 and terminal 80a on autofocus control flexible circuit board 77. These terminals are joined by way of a retention plate 82 which is joined to a cassette holder 32 on frame 30 with the terminals sandwiched between. This is specifically described in column 8 lines 37-50 as follows:

A connection board portion 80 extends from the auto-focus control flexible circuit board 77, and is disposed behind the cassette holder chamber 32. A terminal 80a is included in the connection board portion 80, and has radially disposed segments. In one position behind the cassette holder chamber 32, the terminal 80a, the AF connection terminal 53d and a terminal of the connection board portion 38 of the information reading flexible circuit board 37 are placed on one another, and connected electrically. A retention plate 82 of approximately a disk shape is secured to the rear of the cassette holder chamber 32 from outside the auto-focus control flexible circuit board 77. This maintains the contacted state between the information reading flexible circuit board 37, the main flexible circuit board 41 and the auto-focus control flexible circuit board 77.

As can be seen from this, Ito does not meet the claimed limitation of a mounting for holding the second electronic circuit board and positioning the second set electrical contracts with the mounting being adapted to co-operate with the cover so that as the cover is joined to the frame the second set electrical contact are positioned to engage the first set of electrical contacts. Instead, in Ito, the retention plate 82 holds the contacts against the cassette holder chamber 32 and against each other without co-operation with the cover. In fact, as can be seen in Fig. 4, retention plate 82 is not adapted to co-operate with the cover in any manner.

Further, the only structure described in the Office Action of November 18, 2003, as comprising a mounting, is a support plate 40. Support plate 40 is not adapted to co-operate with the cover so that as the cover is joined to the frame the second set of electrical contacts are positioned to engage the first of electrical contacts.

Claims 25 and 26 have been amended and in their amended form are belived to be allowable consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowablity.

Accordingly, claim 20 and all claims that depend claim 20 are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

2. Claims 29 - 35

The office action of November 18, 2003 also rejects claims 29- 35 under 35 USC § 102 (e) in view of Ito.

In particular, and the office action of the November 18, 2003 states as follows:

regarding claims 29-35, Ito discloses a "one-time use camera" (Fig. 1); a "first circuit board having a flash circuit with a power supply, a flash capacitor charging circuit and a flash discharge circuit that..." and "wherein the first electronic circuit comprises a circuit that co-operate with the camera flashed charge circuit to permit the camera user to manually cause to electrical energy to be stored in the flash capacitor" (see 67, 68 of Fig. 4); a "second circuit board having a second electronic circuit with a second set of electrical contacts adapted to engage the first set electrical contracts, so that the first electronic circuit can cooperate with the second electronic circuit to perform a second set of camera functions", "wherein the second electronic circuit comprises a charge circuit to automatically cause electrical energy to be stored in the flash capacitor", and "wherein the second electronic circuit further cooperates with the second electronic circuit to perform a second set of camera functions", "wherein the second electronic circuit comprises a charge circuit to automatically cause electrical energy to be stored in the flash capacitor", and "wherein the second electronic circuit further cooperates with at least part of the first electronic circuit to perform the at least one other set of camera functions", "said camera further having a cover joined to the frame..." (see 4,5 of Fig. 4)...

The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on grounds that Ito does not disclose any association between the camera cover and the connection between the contacts of the first circuit board and the contacts of the second circuit board. Specifically, Ito at col. 7, lns. 14 – 26.

A flash connection terminal 53a appears at an edge of the rear board portion 53 of the main flexible circuit board 41. A flash connection flexible circuit board 67 includes a first terminal 67a and a second terminal 67b. The first terminal 67a is connected with the flash connection terminal 53a. The second terminal 67b is a front end of the flash connection flexible circuit board 67. A flash control printed circuit board 68 is disposed at a front face of the take-up chamber 33, and connected with the second terminal 67b.

The flash control printed circuit board 68 includes a flash circuit, is controlled by the main flexible circuit board 41 connected therewith by the flash connection flexible circuit board 67, and controls the flash emitter 9 for emission of flash light.

Thus, what is described in Ito is a flash board 68 that is disposed at a front face of a take up chamber 33 of the camera frame. There is no stated relationship between the cover and the position of flash board 68. Flash board 68 is electrically joined to main flexible circuit board 41 by way of a flexible circuit board 67.

Main flexible circuit board 41 is also joined to body 3 and neither of front cover 4 nor rear cover 5 is said to position the main flexible circuit board 41 in any way. More specifically, Ito fails to describe any embodiment wherein front cover 4 or rear cover 5 positions the main flexible circuit board 41 so that it cooperates with flash board 68. To the contrary, a flexible circuit board 67 is introduced, the sole purpose of which is to provide a connection between main flexible circuit board 41 and flash board 68. It is noted that neither front cover 4 nor front cover 5 is described as positioning main flexible circuit board 41 to engage flexible circuit board 67.

Thus, Ito fails to describe each of the limitations of claim 29 and cannot be said to anticipate it. Accordingly, claim 29 and all claims that depend therefrom are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

3. Claims 36 – 46:

These claims are allowed. The applicants again thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

4. Claims 47 – 54:

Claims 47 has been amended. As as is noted above, Ito fails to show any embodiment wherein either of front cover 4 or rear cover 5 main circuit board 41 or any other circuit board for any purpose. More specifically, Ito fails to describe any embodiment wherein front cover 4 or rear cover 5 positions the main flexible circuit board 41 so that it cooperates with flash board 68. To the contrary, a flexible circuit board 67 is introduced, the sole purpose of which is to provide a connection between main flexible circuit board 41 and flash board 68. It is noted that neither front cover 4 nor front cover 5 is described as positioning main flexible circuit board 41 to engage flexible circuit board 67.

Claims 48, 50, and 53 have been amended and in their amended form are believed to be allowable consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowability. Claim 51 has not been amended. However, claim 51 is dependent upon claim 50 and therefore is believed to be in a condition for allowance consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowability.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that in view of the above amendments and remarks, that this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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